

Project SEARCH is a *SCHOOL TRANSITION TO WORK PROGRAM* that provides employment and education opportunities to individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. The Project SEARCH model focuses on providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain marketable and transferable skills.

## About Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a one-year, school transition program that provides training and education that may lead to employment for individuals with disabilities.

The cornerstone of Project SEARCH is total immersion in a large business. Five days a week, students report to the host business, learn employability skills in the classroom and job skills while participating in a variety of internships/experiences.

Certified special education teachers and job coaches work with both the students and the business staff. Students end their day by reflection, problem solving, planning and journaling their key learning.

Established in July 1988, Project SEARCH is a collaborative effort of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, as well as schools, business, community mental health partners, and state vocational rehabilitation agencies. Each of these organizations is an active partner in providing vocational training and employment for people with disabilities.

To learn more visit [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us)

***The ultimate goal upon program completion is to utilize their internship skills for gainful employment.***

## Why Project SEARCH?

- Three 10-week rotations with a focus on transferable skills (specific job skill development, work responsibility, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, etc.)
  - An environment that embraces diversity and demonstrates a strong commitment to the program, to employment and growth opportunities.
- Opportunities to develop transportation skills through learning public transportation or other arrangements.
- There are over 270 Project SEARCH sites across the United States and the United Kingdom
- **Positive employment outcomes are close to 70% according to national Project SEARCH data**



## Project SEARCH Michigan

Spectrum Health – Grand Rapids

Fifth Third Bank – Grand Rapids

Beaumont Health Systems- Troy Campus

Henry Ford Hospital West Bloomfield

Mercy Memorial Hospital - Monroe

Bronson Medical Center- Kalamazoo

Blue Cross Blue Shield - Detroit

Delta College – Bay City

For more information contact Susie Rutkowski, Project SEARCH Co-Director  
[Susie.Rutkowski@cchmc.org](mailto:Susie.Rutkowski@cchmc.org) or Cathy Schmidt, Michigan [cathy.schmidt@oakland.k12.mi.us](mailto:cathy.schmidt@oakland.k12.mi.us)